

The 202,353 figure for North Carolina, then, is the only one we will have to work with. DBPH obviously has doubts about their 7.6 million figure as they have contracted with the American Foundation for the Blind to conduct a "non-user" survey to more exactly determine what portion of the eligible population is not being served. However, it will be at least another year before the results of this survey are published. Preliminary indications are that the number of physically handicapped has been overestimated.

The greatest problem in determining eligibility lies with the "learning disabled" or "mentally retarded." These people are eligible only if the impairment is "the result of an organic dysfunction." Such a definition poses a real problem for the physicians who must certify an application of this type. The problem is further compounded by the fact that almost every learning disability application we receive is for a school child. There are certainly thousands of adults eligible for this service, but they will never be tested for a "learning disability" and will never realize their eligibility.

III. Analysis of Present Services.

A. Population Served.

To gather some statistical information about our patrons, we took a sample of 400 names from our master plate file of active patrons. As our applications come through the mail we are limited in the types of personal information we can ask for. We must have the patron's:

1. Name.
2. Current mailing address.
3. Type of disability (specific medical information is not required).

We also ask for the patron's age and educational level, but we cannot require this and some decline to give it. We infer the patron's sex from their name.